

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants have made amendments to Claims 9 and 19 in the manner suggested by the Examiner, and have canceled without prejudice claims 1-8 and 23 in an effort to expedite the allowance of this application. The present amendments overcome the rejections and place this application in condition for allowance for the reasons as stated below.

In the Official Action, the Examiner had objections to Claims 7, 19 and 23, and also had rejected Claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112. With regard to Claim 19, Applicants have amended this claim in the fashion as set forth by the Examiner, and thus this objection is traversed and has become moot. With regard to the other objections, without addressing these on the merits, these have become moot by virtue of the cancellation of these claims without prejudice.

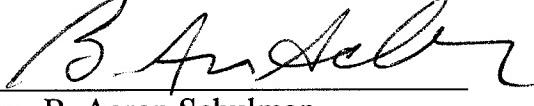
In the Official Action, prior art rejections were made to Claims 1-8 and 23, and without addressing the merits of these rejections, which Applicants contest, these objections have become moot by the cancellation of these claims without prejudice.

Finally, the Examiner recognized that Claims 9 and 19 were allowable but for their dependence on Claim 1. These claims have now been rewritten in the manner suggested by the Examiner so as to be in independent form, and thus the Examiner's objection on this basis has become moot.

In light of the amendments and arguments provided herewith, the present application contains only allowable claims, and thus the application has been placed in condition for immediate allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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